

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2009

The Honorable Robert Gates
Secretary of Defense
U.S. Department of Defense
1300 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Gates:

We write today with regards to the current prohibition on openly gay and lesbian service members in the military, commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADI).

This discriminatory policy results in the Department of Defense losing tens of millions each year in unrecoverable recruiting and training costs. The 2006 Blue Ribbon Commission's report on DADI found that the Pentagon wasted over \$360 million due to this policy from 1994 until 2003, the last year studied. Since its enactment in 1994, over 13,500 service members have been discharged under DADI, including 730 mission critical soldiers and over 65 Arabic and Farsi linguists vital to the war on terrorism.

To increase transparency on the effects the DADI policy is having on our military and by extension our national defense, we request that the Office of the Secretary of Defense provide data on the number of DADI discharges in 2009 no later than January 15, 2010. In addition, we request monthly reports thereafter to Congress detailing the number of enlisted service members and officers discharged under the policy including their job specialty (MOS), time in the service and branch of the military. Through these monthly updates, Congress and the public will get a clearer picture of the continued costs and damage to our national security inflicted by this policy.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a timely response.

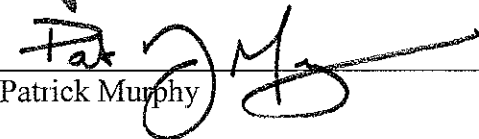
Sincerely,



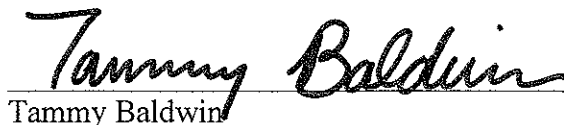
James Moran



Alcee Hastings



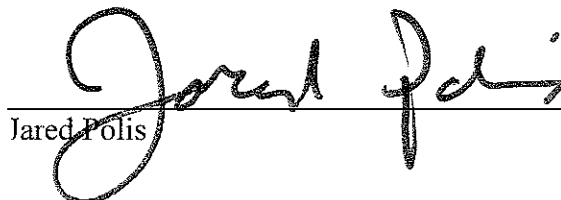
Patrick Murphy



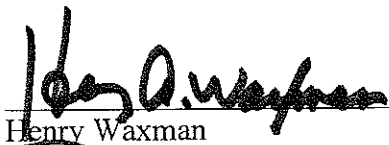
Tammy Baldwin

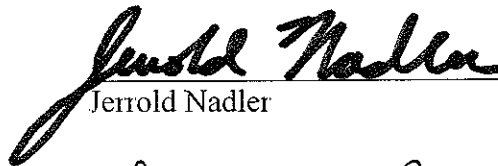


Barney Frank

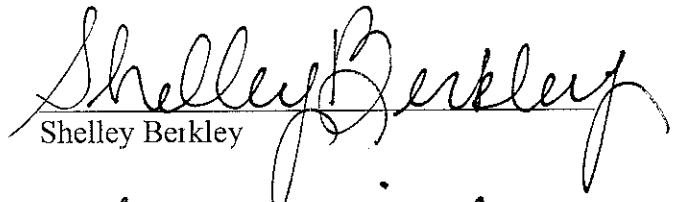


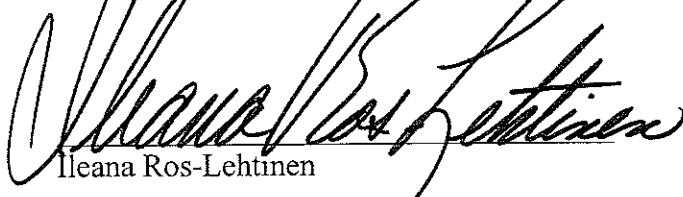
Jared Polis

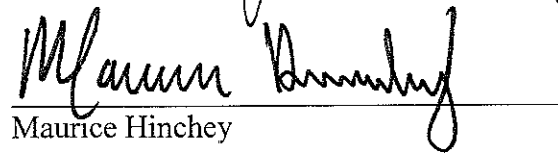

Henry Waxman

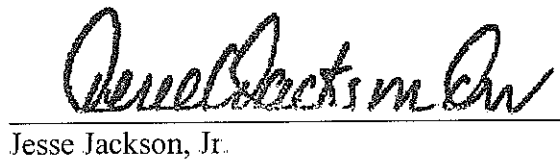

Jerrold Nadler


John Dingell

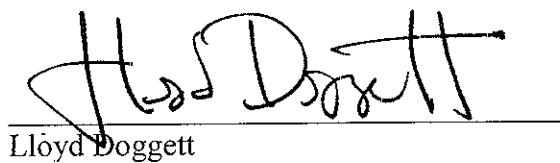

Shelley Berkley

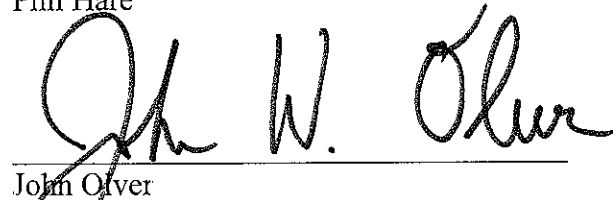

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

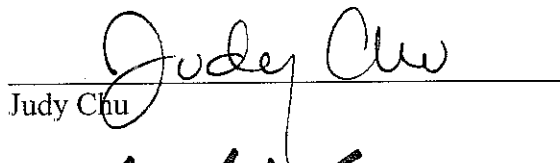

Maurice Hinchey

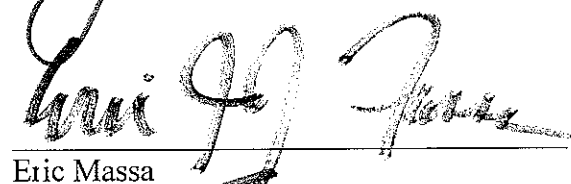

Jesse Jackson, Jr.

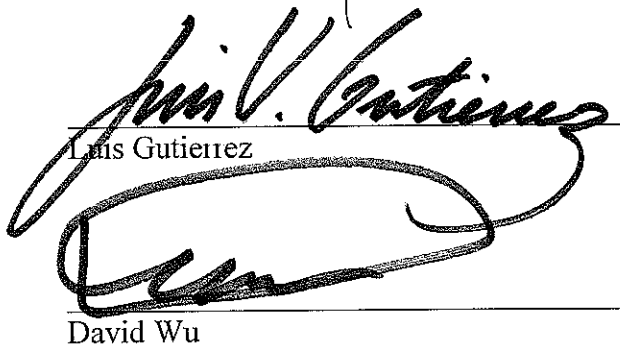

Phil Hare


Lloyd Doggett

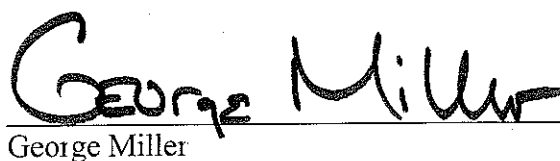

John Oliver

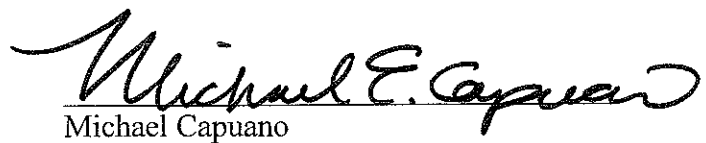

Judy Chu

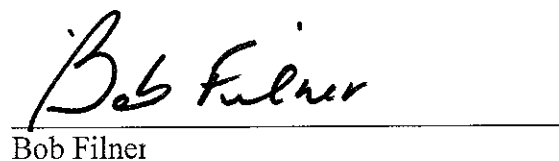

Eric Massa


Luis Gutierrez


Tim Walz

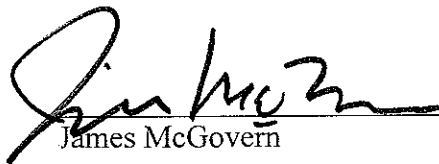

George Miller

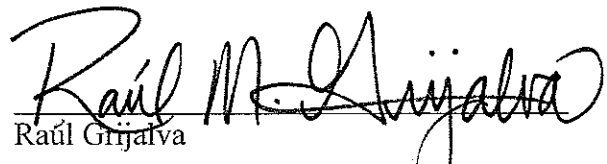

Michael Capuano


Bob Filner


Mike Quigley


Steve Cohen

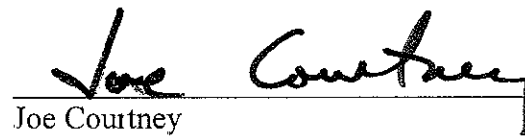

James McGovern

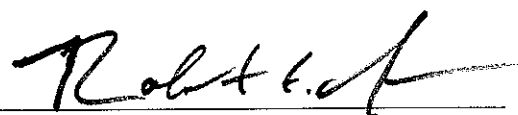

Raúl Grijalva

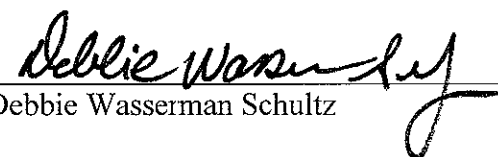

Lois Capps



Brad Sherman



Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick

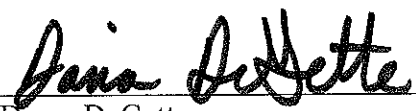

Joe Courtney

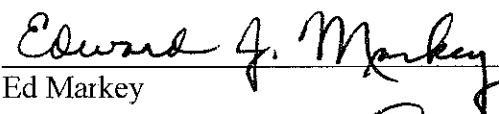

Robert Andrews

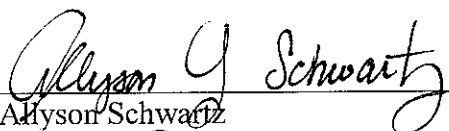

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

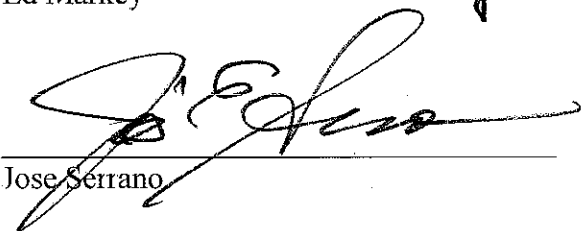

Robert Wexler

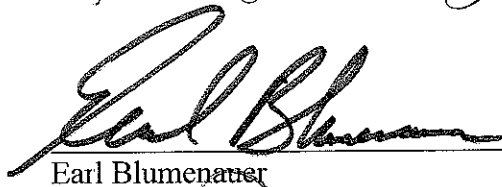

Steven Rothman

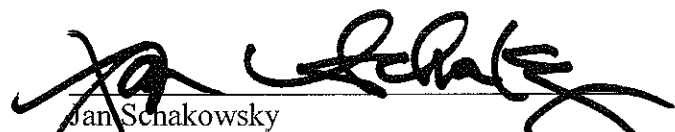

Diana DeGette


Ed Markey

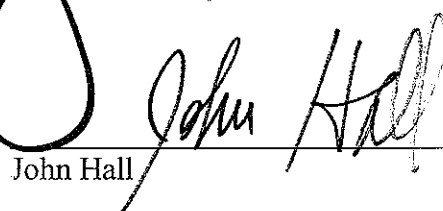

Alyson Schwartz

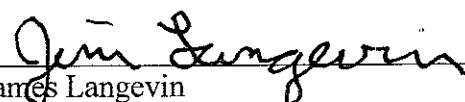

Jose Serrano

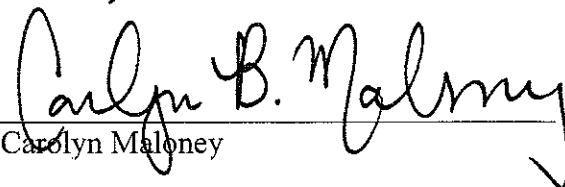

Earl Blumenauer

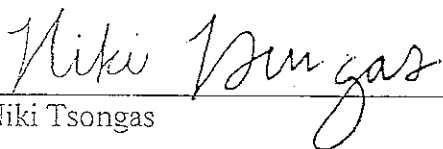

Jan Schakowsky


Pete Stark


John Hall



James Langevin


Carolyn Maloney

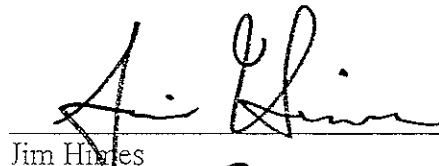

Niki Tsongas


Yvette Clarke



Bill Delahunt

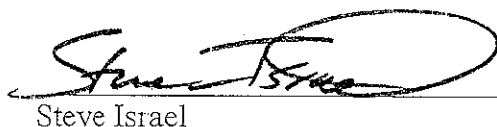

Michael Honda

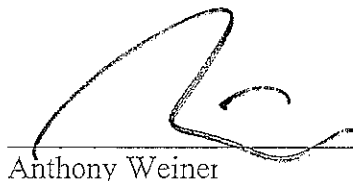

Bobby Scott


Jim Himes


Zoe Lofgren

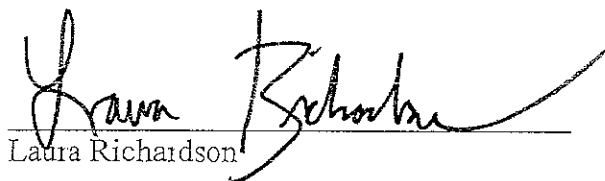

Bill Owens

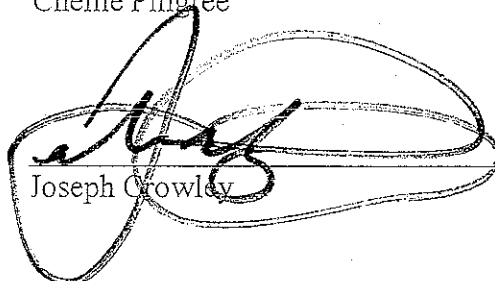

Steve Israel

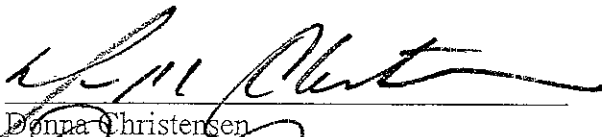

Anthony Weiner


Hank Johnson


Chellie Pingree


Laura Richardson

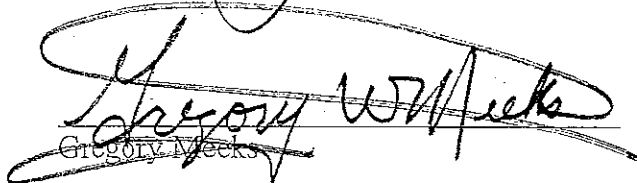

Joseph Crowley

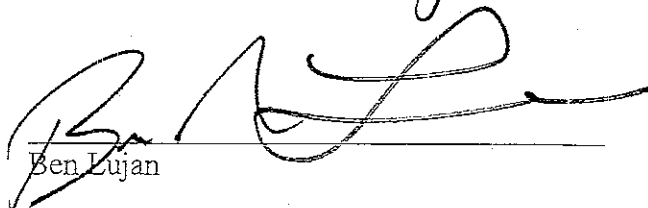

Donna Christensen

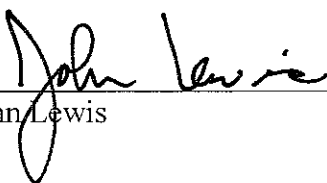

Lucille Roybal-Allard

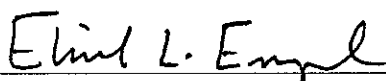

Gwen Moore


Steve Kagen

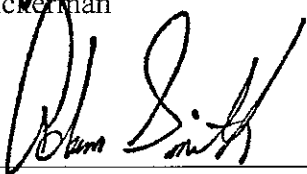

Gregory Meeks

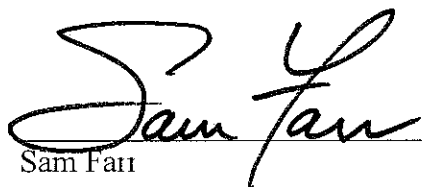

Ben Lujan

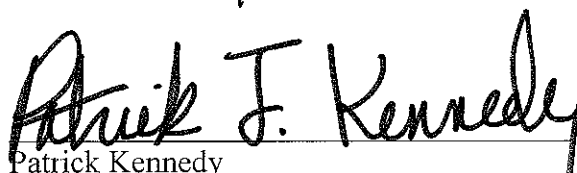

John Lewis


Eliot Engel

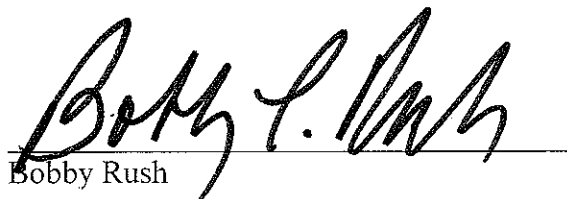

Gary Ackerman

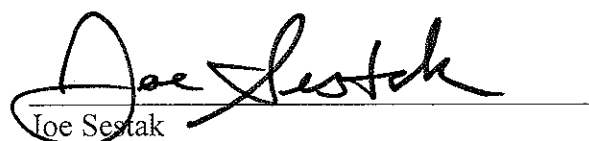

Adam Smith


Sam Farr

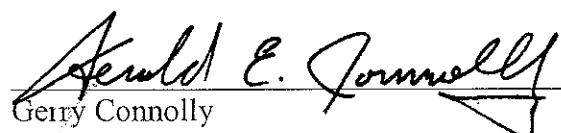

Patrick Kennedy


Russ Carnahan

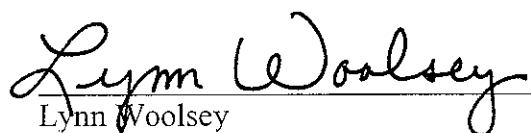

Bobby Rush

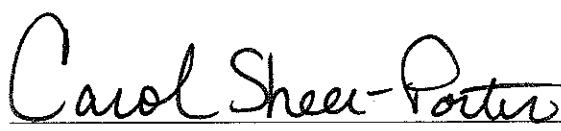

Joe Sestak


Jim McDermott



Gerry Connolly

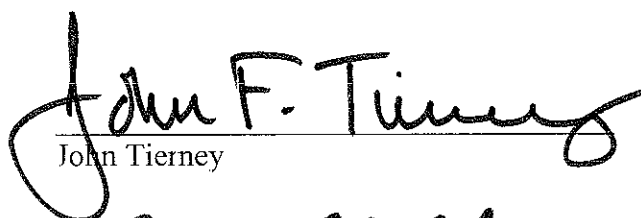

Eleanor Holmes Norton


Lynn Woolsey


Carol Shea-Porter

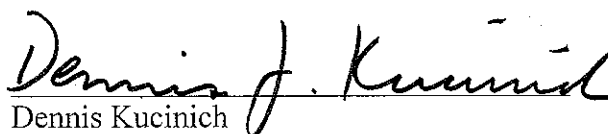

Marcia Fudge

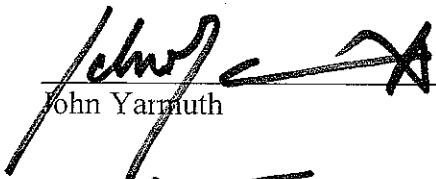

Peter Welch


John Tierney



Rush Holt

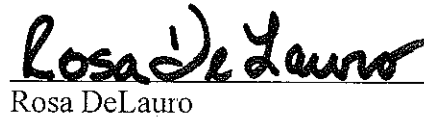

Kathy Dahlkemper



Dennis Kucinich


John Yarmuth


Jane Harman

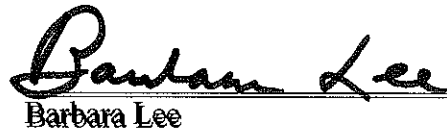

Dina Titus


Rosa DeLauro

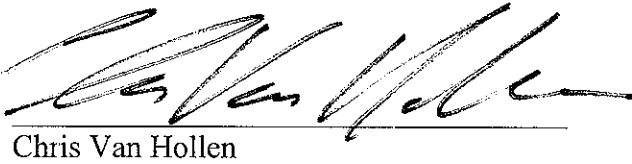

Robert Brady


Charles Gonzalez


Loretta Sanchez


Barbara Lee


Jackie Speier


Chris Van Hollen